

## **CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A surgical apparatus comprising:  
2 a clip applier; and  
3 an actuating assembly contacting said clip applier for actuating said clip applier  
4 among at least a first position, a second position and a third position.
- 1 2. An apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said clip applier comprises a jaw having a  
2 first portion adjacent to a second portion.
- 1 3. An apparatus as in claim 2 wherein said first portion is rotatably coupled to said  
2 second portion of said jaw.
- 1 4. An apparatus as in claim 3 wherein said actuating assembly is coupled to said  
2 second portion of said jaw such that said second portion is translatable.
- 1 5. An apparatus as in claim 2 wherein said first and second portions are resilient.
- 1 6. An apparatus as in claim 5 wherein said actuating assembly concurrently urges  
2 said first and second portions of said jaw toward each other.
- 1 7. An apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said clip applier is capable of receiving a first  
2 ligating clip when said clip applier is in said first position, and wherein said clip applier is

3 capable of receiving a second ligating clip when said clip applier is in said second  
4 position, said first and second ligating clips having different sizes.

1 8. An apparatus as in claim 1 wherein said first and second positions are open  
2 positions and said third position is a closed position.

1 9. An apparatus as in claim 1 further comprising a housing disposed around said  
2 actuating assembly.

1 10. A surgical apparatus comprising:  
2 a housing;  
3 a jaw having first and second movable sections, said jaw mateable with a  
4 plurality of ligating clips having different sizes; and  
5 an actuating mechanism disposed substantially within said housing and  
6 contacting said jaw.

1 11. An apparatus as in claim 10 wherein said housing is tubular.

1 12. An apparatus as in claim 10 wherein said actuating mechanism comprises a  
2 translatable tube disposed within said housing and surrounding said jaw, said  
3 translatable tube concurrently urging said first and second sections of said jaw when  
4 said translatable tube is translated toward a distal end of said jaw.

1 13. An apparatus as in claim 10 wherein said actuating mechanism comprises a rod  
2 coupled to said second movable section of said jaw, said first moveable section of said

3 jaw rotatably coupled to both said second movable section and a support member fixed  
4 to said housing.

1 14. An apparatus as in claim 10 wherein said actuating mechanism comprises a  
2 handle coupled to said housing, said handle and said jaw located at opposite ends of  
3 said housing.

1 15. A surgical apparatus comprising:

2 an elongated housing having a first end and a second end;

3 an actuating assembly having a translatable member extending through said  
4 housing and a handle coupled to said translatable member adjacent to said first end of  
5 said housing;

6 a fixed member coupled to said housing at said second end; and

7 a jaw having first and second sections, said first section rotatably coupled to said  
8 fixed member and said second section, said second section coupled to said  
9 translatable member and extending away from said second end of said housing, said  
10 first section having a first range of movement and said second section having a second  
11 range of movement, said first range of movement dictated by said second range of  
12 movement.

1 16. An apparatus as in claim 15 wherein said first section of said jaw rotates through  
2 said first range of movement as said second section of said jaw translates through said  
3 second range of movement.

1 17. A surgical apparatus comprising:

2 an elongated outer housing having a first end and a second end;  
3 an actuating assembly having a translatable elongated inner housing disposed  
4 within said outer housing and a handle coupled to said inner housing adjacent to said  
5 first end of said outer housing; and  
6 a jaw having a first resilient portion and a second resilient portion, said first and  
7 second resilient portions disposed within said inner housing and extending away from  
8 said second end of said outer housing;  
9 said inner housing concurrently urging said first and second resilient portions of  
10 said jaw toward each other when said inner housing translates through said outer  
11 housing.

1 18. A method comprising:

2 actuating a clip applier to a first position;

3 mating said clip applier with a first ligating clip such that said first ligating clip is  
4 held by said clip applier;

5 moving said clip applier adjacent to a first vessel; and

6 applying said first ligating clip to said first vessel by actuating said clip applier to  
7 a second position.

1 19. A method as in claim 18 further comprising:

2 unmating said clip applier from said first ligating clip after said applying;

3 actuating said clip applier to a third position;

4 mating said clip applier with a second ligating clip such that said second ligating  
5 clip is held by said clip applier;

6 moving said clip applier adjacent to a second vessel;  
7 applying said second ligating clip to said second vessel by actuating said clip  
8 applier to said second position.

1 20. A method as in claim 19 wherein said first and third positions are open positions  
2 and said second position is a closed position.

1 21. A method as in claim 18 wherein actuating said clip applier to said first position  
2 comprises translating an actuating member toward said clip applier and wherein  
3 actuating said clip applier to said second position comprises translating said actuating  
4 member away from said clip applier.

1 22. A method as in claim 18 wherein actuating said clip applier to said first position  
2 comprises translating an actuating member away from said clip applier and wherein  
3 actuating said clip applier to said second position comprises translating said actuating  
4 member toward said clip applier.